National Women’s History Month

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR. MARY FRANCES BERRY

Author, Activist, Educator, and Historian

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
https://mtsu.zoom.us/s/85112820036

For more than four decades, Berry has been one of the most visible and respected activists in the cause of civil rights, gender equality, and social justice. As chair of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, Berry led the charge for equal rights and liberties for all Americans over the course of four presidential administrations.

A trailblazer for women and African Americans alike, she became the first woman of any race to head a major research university as chancellor of the University of Colorado. Berry is the Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought and Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, where she teaches the history of American law and the history of law and social policy.

Mary Eliza Church Terrell was co-founder and the first president of the National Association of Colored Women. She was an early civil rights advocate, educator, author, and lecturer on woman suffrage and rights for African Americans. Her parents were former slaves who became prominent in the growing black community of Memphis. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Oberlin College, was an NAACP charter member, and in 1949 was the first black allowed in the American Association of University Women’s Washington, D.C., chapter.

National Women’s History Month Buttons

IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT 1862–1931

Ida B. Wells-Barnett was a prominent journalist, activist, and researcher who battled sexism, racism, and violence. She shed light on the conditions of African Americans in the South, including to foreign audiences, and was active in the women’s rights movement. When yellow fever took her parents, Wells-Barnett worked as a teacher to raise siblings and eventually moved to Memphis. Following a friend’s lynching, she investigated several cases but was driven out of town to Chicago following her exposé of a 1892 lynching.

ALICE PAUL 1885–1977

Alice Paul devoted herself single-mindedly throughout her long life to the cause of women’s equality. Unlike her predecessors, she believed that overcoming the inertia of those in power required dramatic, even radical action. While working and studying in England as a young woman, Paul became a member of the Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU), Britain’s predominant suffrage organization. Paul believed publicity generated by her actions, like her arrest at the lord mayor of London’s banquet, only furthered the larger cause.

MARY ELIZA CHURCH TERRELL 1863–1954

Mary Eliza Church Terrell was co-founder and the first president of the National Association of Colored Women. She was an early civil rights advocate, educator, author, and lecturer on woman suffrage and rights for African Americans. Her parents were former slaves who became prominent in the growing black community of Memphis. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Oberlin College, was an NAACP charter member, and in 1949 was the first black allowed in the American Association of University Women’s Washington, D.C., chapter.
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH 2021

Events on the calendar may have changed. See mtsu.edu/calendar for current information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5
National Women’s History Month Opening Ceremony
3 p.m., Livestream: mtsu.edu/events/live
Join us for this year’s virtual opening ceremony in celebration of National Women’s History Month.
Contact: Margan.Wipfli@mtsu.edu

ALL MONTH
In the Footsteps of Notable Women: Self-Guided Tour of Rutherford County
The Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County and the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation have collaborated to bring our community together to commemorate the centennial of women’s suffrage. Please visit our website for a PDF version of their brochure to guide you to some very memorable places around our area.
mtsu.edu/jac/nwhm.php

MONDAY, MARCH 1–WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7
“On the Periphery” Art Show
8 a.m.–4 p.m., Murfrees Art Gallery, Room 218, Rutherford County Office Building, 319 Maple Street, Murfreesboro
See a collection of original art that brings to light the story of survivors or highlights the true effects of stalking. The student and alumni works were gathered by Power of One for “Stalking Awareness Month,” in January, and have been on display in the Todd Gallery on campus. The art emphasizes the empowerment of survivors, trusting one’s instincts, and the long-term effects of stalking as a serious crime.
Contact: powerof1@mtsu.edu

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3
No Pressure Q&A with College Students
Virtual 5:30 p.m.
STEM graduate students at MTSU will share their stories with local high school students and undergraduates. The women will talk about why they chose to major in STEM, what it is like being a woman in STEM classes (where they are often in the minority), how to find one’s voice, and how to reach out for advice. The speakers will also discuss how the women’s contributions to STEM, such as the three female scientists who won the 2020 Nobel Prizes in chemistry (2) and in physics. The Q&A event will empower female high school students and undergraduates to explore STEM majors at MTSU and not be afraid to ask questions.
Contact: Judith.Iriarte-Gross@mtsu.edu

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3
Board and Brush Paint Nite
8 p.m., Zoom
Pick up a Brush and paint a kit. Then join Pinnacle Honor Society, Student Programming And Raider Entertainment (SPARE), and the June Anderson Center for a night of creativity, painting, empowerment, and logos.
Kit pickup: March 1-3, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; at Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (Room 330 in the Student Union).
Contact: jacwns@mtsu.edu

MONDAY, MARCH 8
MTSU Women of Color in Health Care: Women STEM Professionals in the Workforce After Graduation
6:30 p.m., Zoom link: https://mtsu.zoom.us/j/89958601959
MTSU graduates and STEM professionals share their stories with the campus and the community. The panelists will answer questions about why they chose careers in health care, how they traveled their career paths, and what they are doing today.
Contact: Judith.Iriarte-Gross@mtsu.edu

MONDAY, MARCH 15
Three Steps to Claiming Your Voice: A Framework for Empowerment
5 p.m., Zoom link: https://mtsu.zoom.us/j/82400933427?pwd=bhIEWtgpZ2WkVWhlMIzM0JZSk1uzQT09
The real power of the women who fought for the right to vote was that they would not be silenced. Yet for all the ways higher education seeks to foster diverse voices, it remains a space where women’s authority is regularly challenged and their voices interrupted, ignored, or silenced. In this hands-on, 90-minute workshop geared toward faculty and graduate students, participants will explore aspects of their professional lives when they feel silenced, learn about the costs of not speaking up, and identify concrete strategies for more confidently advocating for themselves.
Contact: Judith.Iriarte-Gross@mtsu.edu

TUESDAY, MARCH 16
120,000 Stories: Nobuko Miyamoto and Her Long Song of Relocation, Race, Love, and Revolution
2 p.m., Register here for Zoom link: https://bit.ly/3brvNAm
Join us for a conversation between Nobuko Miyamoto (l), a prominent figure in Asian American music and dance, and Deborah Wong (r), who has worked closely with Miyamoto on her memoirs and documentary film and has given voice to Miyamoto’s songs, music videos, and community experiments. Wong will ask Miyamoto questions and will offer prompts into Miyamoto’s key ideas, including social justice lessons from Asian America, intercultural coalition-building, and allyship between women from different communities.
Presented by the MTSU Center for Music Industry, Culture, and Society, Center for Popular Music, and Center for Asian Studies
Contact: Mei Han@mtsu.edu

TUESDAY, MARCH 16
National Women’s History Month Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mary Frances Berry
7 p.m., Zoom link: https://mtsu.zoom.us/85112820036
Mary Frances Berry, former chair of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission across four presidential administrations, believes that each generation has the responsibility to make a dent in the wall of injustice. Her claims are based on the understanding that when people stand up, stand tall, and never give up the fight.
Co-sponsored by Distinguished Lecture Committee, American Association of University Women–Murfreesboro Branch, and the MTSU President’s Commission on the Status of Women
Contact: Margan.Wipfli@mtsu.edu

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17
Frida Kahlo’s Pandemic Pastime
Pickup location: STU 330 (Center for Student Involvement and Leadership)
Pickup time: 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Based on Frida Kahlo’s surrealist drawing game, Exquisite Corpse, this program will promote COVID-19 safe connections, creativity, and exploration of themes surrounding women’s wellness. On March 17, students can pick up an educational art kit that contains information on local resources to support survivors of gender-based violence and the supplies to illustrate an aspect of women’s health (e.g., psychological, physical, environmental). Then they can safely pass their artwork along to two other people to complete! The result will be a stunning depiction of diverse viewpoints that can be uploaded to social media and shared during the remainder of Women’s History Month by tagging Btmsuppowrtime and @mtsu_jac.
Kit pickup: March 17, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., at Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (Room 330 in Student Union)
Contact: powerrf1@mtsu.edu

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17
Dancing for Suffrage: Lecture-Demonstration
Zoom/Murphy Center G040B, 6 p.m.
Experience Florence Fleming Noyes’ “Dance of Freedom,” as reconstructed from archival film and newspaper records by MTSU dance professor Meg Brooker, who is a certified Noyes Rhythm teacher and legacy leader of Duncan dancer. The dance—performed for women’s suffrage leader Anna Howard Shaw’s birthday in 1914—depicts a journey from physical restraint to freedom of movement. This lecture-demonstration will explore the role of dance in the women’s suffrage movement, using archival film, as well as video of MTSU Dance Theatre students performing contemporary choreography that they created in conversation with the historic choreography.
Co-sponsored by Distinguished Lecture Committee, American Association of University Women–Murfreesboro Branch, and the MTSU President’s Commission on the Status of Women
Contact: Meghan.Brooker@mtsu.edu
Register here for Zoom link: https://forms.gle/9i1EqHGRH6UJq1p7

THURSDAY, MARCH 18
Gender Equality and Economic Freedom
4:30 p.m., Zoom link: https://mtsu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TNLC-ZUR5smy-r1AgOKy6Q
The event will feature a lecture by University of Tennessee-Chattanooga economics professor Claudia Claviles-Wilhams on her recently published article in the prestigious journal World Development, “Does Individualism Promote Gender Equality?” (coauthored with Lewis Davis).
Contact: Daniel.Sim@mtsu.edu

TUESDAY, MARCH 23
Meet Me in the Middle
1–3 p.m., Student Union Commons
The Division of Student Affairs hosts events called “Meet Me in the Middle” for students to meet up and talk about a topic each week. Come and spend some time on the Student Union Commons talking to other students about women-centered topics.
Contact: Margan.Wipfli@mtsu.edu